



June 1, 2017

***Ex Parte Notice***

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, May 30, 2017, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Nicholas Degani, Senior Counsel to Chairman Ajit Pai, and Jay Schwarz, wireline advisor to the Chairman, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

Specifically, we discussed the universal service fund budget for carriers that did not elect model-based support, including concerns with respect to sufficiency of that budget and the effect of the budget control on standalone broadband rates for rural consumers and investment incentives for rural carriers. NTCA urged the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) to consider measures to ensure that rural consumers are better able to obtain access to standalone broadband services at reasonably comparable rates to those available in urban areas, and to explore what can be done to ensure that the reformed distribution mechanisms function more predictably as intended and consistent with the universal service goals articulated in federal law.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano  
Senior Vice President –  
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Nicholas Degani  
Jay Schwarz